

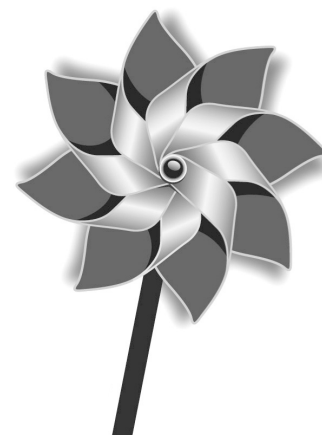
Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Name & Organization Phone Number Email Address

April Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month

Activities Highlight Efforts to Protect Children



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and *(NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION)* is partnering with Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to help raise awareness of the role we can all play in ensuring great childhoods for all children in Virginia.

Together with PCAV and VDSS, we believe that all children deserve a great childhood as children are our future. However, that is sadly not the case for many children in Virginia. Thousands of Virginia children suffer abuse and neglect each year. **In FY 2015, there were 49,868 children reported as possible victims of abuse and neglect, and of those children, there were 48 confirmed deaths due to abuse and neglect.**

These statistics are a reminder to all of us that we can each find a way to ensure safe and happy childhoods for children. The 2016 Virginia Child Abuse Prevention Month theme, “**Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect: Educate. Guide. Protect,**” promotes the idea that together, communities can unite in their efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of children in our commonwealth.

Activities across the state will include:

- **Pinwheel Gardens:** The planting of pinwheel “gardens” by organizations, schools and businesses throughout Virginia, including at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The pinwheel is the symbol for child abuse prevention and reflects childhood hope, health and happiness. For more information, visit www.pcav.org
- **Wear Blue Day: April 4th.** Blue is the official color of child abuse and neglect prevention and on April 4th, friends and advocates across Virginia will wear blue to represent their support of child abuse prevention month.
- **(YOUR Local Community ACTIVITY HERE)**

For more information on how to keep children safe from abuse and neglect, please visit *(YOUR WEBSITE)*, www.pcav.org, dss.virginia.gov, or call the **Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-552-7096.**



2016 Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention

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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)

800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline